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BANKING PROGRESS

The banking currency bill is about to become a law. It is the most important legislation of its kind in fifty years, and fifty years covers the development and growth of modern banking. In view of the opposition encountered from Republican and other sources, it is pertinent to recall that the act of 1863 to organize a national banking system which would provide a market for United States bonds and a uniform national currency, was fought by the established State banks from start to finish and beyond. They would not come in. They ridiculed the scheme. They sneered at the few little banks organized at first under the act and called them "wildcat" banks. But they finally came in, though under the pressure of a ten per cent tax on their circulation.

It is cheering to note the banks today are showing a better spirit toward this present plan to disturb their established privileges and reorganize the national system, and without the stress of civil war to stimulate it. They have as a matter of course, blustered and threatened and sworn over the general plan and its details. It is the way of Privilege when best. They were to stay out if the number of regional reserve banks exceeded three or four. Next, they were to stay out if the scheme did not turn on a central bank. They were then to stay out of the number of regional reserve banks exceeded three or four.

But not one of these without-which-not conditions has been met, and we hear of no more threats. The defeat is accepted, if not joyously, at least discreetly, and we now have the New York banks simply asking for two minor amendments.

It is generally conceded that if the New York national banks go into the plan the other big banks of the country will go in, and if the big banks go in the country banks will certainly follow. And the New York banks are evidently preparing to go in.

We have made some progress since 1863 in bringing banking to the consideration of a public obligation. We have even made marked progress within a few months. In the currency banking bill as framed, some errors must be uncovered that nobody foresaw. But they can be more quickly remedied by legislative amendment than can defects in general legislation where courts must take years to remedy the law.

AN AFTER-BREAKFAST PLAN

What are the times coming to? A man elected to office by the people has the impertinence to announce that he is going to work for the people, execute the trust imposed in him as faithfully as if it were his own private business—and in order to do these things, deny himself dinner. New York's recently-elected Mayor is the fearless pioneer. John Parrot Mitchell is his name.

He says he cannot be an after-dinner mayor and also an after-breakfast mayor. So he is going to cut out the dinner variety. When he arose in the morning after attending a banquet it was to prepare for another banquet in the evening. If the cooks were irreproachable there was always the oratory. No wonder he rebelled against the iron rule of social slavery and struck off the shackles that held him prisoner.

No human constitution could stand the daily strain, and Mayor-elect Mitchell wanted to live to perform the duties of his office. The dinner problem in this country is a tough one, anyway. Admiral Togo, who vanquished the Russians, surrendered abjectly to indigestion by the time he reached Boston. Kitchener, conqueror of Mahdi hordes among other things and a brave man and nobody will deny, discreetly side-stepped the festivities that lay like pitfalls along his track as he crossed this continent. Prince Henry of Prussia, after escaping alive, considerably cautioned European dignitaries mediating a visit to this country against the delightful, but none the less real perils of American hospitality.

It is fortunate for Mr. Mitchell that he has a strong sense of prudence. Ahead of him are four trying years. With the aid of a boxing instructor, he went through the boxing campaign in New York, made and listened to speeches night after night, and came out in good form. A robust man might attend public dinners six nights a week and suffer no great harm, if it were a question only of the food. He might even survive a night's succession of orators if nothing else were required

of him. But the combination of hotel food and hotel oratory as a regular diet is more than any man should be expected to bear.

THE FARMING CLOUD

Looming just above the legislative horizon in Washington is a cloud which fills many with apprehension. Other clouds are at present more prominent but when they are dispersed this newest one will demand attention.

The Bryan treaty which virtually establishes a United States protectorate over Nicaragua now sleeps in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations what would possibly be an endless sleep if the committee were left to itself. But it is the reputed purpose of the Administration not to let the committee alone. When the Mexican situation clears up, President Wilson will, it is said, press for a report and the treaty's ratification.

This is nothing less than a treaty of armored guardianship over a Central American state. It makes the United States politically responsible for any government which Nicaragua may set up and financially responsible for any of its acts or deficiencies. It substitutes Dramatic Diplomacy for Dollar Diplomacy.

This is the direct outgrowth of a Panama Canal policy which makes of that great work for commerce and peace an engine primarily of war. A fortified canal at Panama means naval bases up and down the two coasts to protect the canal fortifications. It means the purchase of rights to the Nicaragua Canal route not to use but to prevent others from using. Having turned Panama into an armed camp for our own military advantage, we should be bound to buy or fight off all other projected canals and extend our sphere of armed and fortified influence accordingly.

President Wilson would be acting more in harmony with himself if he were to turn his great leadership with Congress toward a dedication of the Panama Canal away from war to peace. He cannot hope to stop the logic of a fortified canal even with a protectorate over Nicaragua. He will only have made more certain a course which could not halt short of an American protectorate extending from the Rio Grande into South America and embracing Hayti and Santo Domingo.

IN BAD TASTE

It is one thing to criticize public policies frankly and another to stab them with ridicule barbed with insult. The American people have never been accused of suffering from a sense of humor, and they have been credited with possessing a keen sense of justice.

The burlesque of the Administration's Philippine policy at the Washington banquet of the Order of the Carabao was in bad taste and subversive of discipline, and President Wilson has very properly asked for an investigation, with a view to the reprimand of the officers responsible.

Gridiron Club burlesque of public officials are well enough and comic after-dinner songs about European rulers by naval officers may be executed as individual indiscretions. But the open satire of the Administration's Philippine policy by army and navy officers who have served in the islands admits of no such palliation. The officers who sang "Damn, Damn the Insurrectos" and applauded the introduction of battleship models with nose-guns at the portholes and doves of peace in the fighting-tops, were guilty of a breach of service decorum deserving severe rebuke.

The duty of officers in the Government service is to carry out, not to formulate, policies. They are free to resign and express their sentiments, but they are not free while still holding their commissions to flout a policy of the Government they are sworn to defend and uphold.

Information is wanted in Massachusetts of alleged card games in which New Haven Railroad money was lost purposely in small stacks to legislators whose votes were wanted. How about information of the quiet little poker game arranged by the financiers for the stockholders, where the stakes were millions and the cards were stacked in a way they now grieve?

To the last roll-call on the Currency bill amendments Republican and Progressive Senators lined up behind the "Democratic" Senator from Nebraska like the best trained little soldiers ever. Why look longer for a leader to reunite the party? Behold Hitchcock!

Orville Wright's "fool-proof stabilizer" for aeroplanes is a much-needed invention, but will the foolishly consent to use it? If dips and loops and somersaults are made perfectly safe, what attraction will they have for the crowd?

The Wisconsin Assemblyman who after procuring the enactment of a law against cock-fighting was himself caught at a cock-fight, doubtless went there to see if his law was worth while. So many legislators legislate first and study the matter afterward.

Chocolate as an emergency ration for United States soldiers was approved by a former Secretary of War, but is now disapproved by the present Secretary, who orders its use discontinued. Doctors would not be doctors if they did not disagree on diet.

Mrs. Henry Green says she is a socialist. It is a clear coincidence, thereby proving the old axiom that the good die young.

Let the suffrage band wagon move on. Illinois women won't be required to tell their ages when they register.



"A blacksmith is taking a leading role in a grand opera being produced in Germany." Let us hope he is one of the blacksmiths who have been singing on the American stage and that he won't come back.

If it be true that Americans in the City of Mexico are arming and otherwise preparing for trouble, Gen. Huerta may soon have some acquaintance with the real thing in revolutions.

Before we can believe the French artist that tells us who the two prettiest women in America are, we must have the assurance that he has seen all of them.

How many of the class in history can tell who was vice president when Roosevelt presided over the White House?

If it is true that Huerta is drafting women into his army, it will probably be wise for Mrs. Pankhurst to remain on the other side of the Atlantic.

"Kaiser Wilhelm has sold his schooner." Germany gone dry, too?

To match surgery of the heart and brain, the doctors are now lancing the jugular vein. Where are the "vital parts" old-fashioned people talked about?

With ten new U. S. A. aeroplanes provided this season it is not to be wondered at that the aviation corps knows the burial service by heart.

Does Chairman McCone mean that he couldn't afford to accept Ambassador Herrick's job even with the usual lecturing privilege?

Considering their running ability, those Mexican federalists ought to make good political candidates.

Senator Root's panicky speech being without foundation in fact and easily refuted by men of intelligence, it carried great weight in Wall street as a matter of course.

When the currency bill passed, congress adjourned, the White House wedding over and peace restored in Mexico, life is likely to become for Mr. Wilson one glad sweet yawn.

Arizona News Nuggets

CASE SETTLED

PRESCOTT—Judgment was entered yesterday in the Superior court of Yavapai county in the libel suit brought against the Phoenix Gazette by William H. Doyle, a banker of Prescott. Liability is admitted by the Gazette, as there is no question that Mr. Doyle was not indicted and had technical grounds for his action. However, there was no deliberate or malicious intention to do the gentleman an injustice, declares the Gazette.

BIDS REJECTED

YUMA—That all bids for the construction of the bridge across the Gila river at Antelope will be rejected, is the recommendation from the office of State Engineer Lamar Cobb, forwarded today to the supervisors of Yuma county. Instead of a contract being let the bridge will be built by private labor. The lowest bid received for the type of bridge that is required was in the neighborhood of \$45,000. Several bids were as low as \$30,000 but the specifications submitted by the bidders were not satisfactory.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING

PHOENIX—Byron Quinn, aged about fifteen years, of 817 South First avenue was accidentally shot about 9:30 o'clock last evening and as a result has a serious wound in his leg. He and some other boys were playing about a bonfire at South Second avenue and Grant street and were throwing cartridges into the fire. One of the shells exploded and an instant later Quinn felt a twinge of pain. Examination revealed blood flowing from a wound. The boys have promised to abandon the practice.

SALE OF THE DEMOCRAT

PHOENIX—A deal which has been in progress for some time was consummated on Saturday night by the sale of the Phoenix Democrat to the Phoenix Gazette. The new owner will take possession on Tuesday and it is understood that the publication of the paper will be suspended. John O. Dunbar, the veteran editor of the Democrat, had already severed his connection with that

paper although he had lately been handling the editorial page while making preparation for the publication of Dunbar's Weekly, which will be issued next month under the management of Mr. Dunbar and Jo Connor. The Democrat is the lineal descendant of the Phoenix Enterprise, which was started by A. S. Mills in the late nineties and later passed into the possession of W. D. Bell by whom it was sold to the late Colonel J. P. Wilson. It was later sold to Mr. Dunbar and Sam F. Webb. Since then it has passed through many hands, although the greater part of the time Mr. Dunbar has been in charge of the editorial department. Under a reorganization last fall, George A. Olney, I. F. Woipe and W. T. Webb became the principal owners of it. Mr. Olney of late has had charge of it.

SEEKING OIL

ROOSEVELT—The Tonto Bath oil company has ordered over a mile of pipe to be laid from Roosevelt Lake to the camp where they are engaged to drill. The pipe is to be used to carry water to be pumped from the lake for use in connection with the company's operations. The company has received a marine engine from Detroit and will install it in a tug they have recently purchased. They will also have the use of the government barge for towing supplies across the lake. The company's boat will be an accommodation to the ranchmen in the vicinity as they will be given the privilege of using it for the purpose of transporting supplies across the lake.

THIS IS THE

BEGINNING OF WINTER
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—Last night was the longest of the year (in the northern hemisphere) the time between sunset and sunrise being 16 hours, 54 minutes and 56 seconds. Astronomical winter began at this vicinity at 5:17 o'clock this morning, the sun and earth at that time being at the minimum point of separation. Beginning today the nights will become shorter.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

Alaska. In the 19 years of intervention since its purchase, we have given it little more than the most casual concern, yet its mines, fisheries, and furs alone have added to our wealth the grand sum of \$500,000,000. For almost a generation it was the rich harvest field of a single company. Individual fortunes have been made in that country larger than the price paid to Russia for the whole territory. It has been estimated that there are 20,000,000 acres of this land that will make homes for a people as sturdy as those of New England. Whether this is so or not, it would appear that Alaska can be made self-sustaining agriculturally.

"This vast and unsurpassed asset lies almost undeveloped. A territory one-fifth the size of the United States contains less than a thousand miles of anything that can be called a wagon road."

This "unfortunate condition," in Secretary Lane's judgment, is not due to the "inhospitality of the Alaska climate," because some of southeastern Alaska has a climate more temperate and more equable than that of the greater portion of the north has a kinder climate than Stockholm or St. Petersburg. There is more railroad building 500 miles north of the Canadian border than there is for the same distance south of it.

"Why has not this land been developed? The frank answer is that we did not realize until within a few years that it was worth developing."

"My conclusion is that if we are to bring Alaska into the early and full realization of her possibilities we must create a new piece of governmental machinery for the purpose. In my judgment the way to deal with the problem of Alaskan resources is to establish a board of directors to have this work in charge. Into the hands of this board or commission I would give all the national assets in that territory. Congress should determine on broad outline the policies which this board in a liberal discretion should elaborate and administer, much as is done in the Philippines."

Vigorous suggestions looking to the conservative development of the coal lands of the West are made by Sec-

retary Lane. "It is certainly not for the public interest," the report says, "that our coal deposits shall be opened rapidly and ruthlessly. I can not feel, however, that we should sacrifice any present need for fuel or willingly surrender ourselves to a demand for exorbitant prices because of a fear that some day the coal supply may be exhausted. Already there has been developed a substitute for coal in the flowing stream. The turbine converts melted snow into heat and light, which can be distributed over a constantly widening area. I think we have now arrived at that point in scientific achievement which justifies the belief that the wheels of industry will not cease, nor our houses go unlighted or unheated, so long as dams may be built upon our streams. Water will be, indeed already is, the greatest conservator of coal. We must seek to make use of our coal, the fullest use that society requires. This principle seems a truism. But here lies the difficulty. We wish cheap coal and at the same time a minimum of waste. We wish society to take the lion's share of the profit and yield no more to the operator than will make his work sufficiently attractive to keep him at it. In short, we desire competition without waste, a frank impossibility."

Similar suggestions are offered as to the development of petroleum, phosphate and potash. Secretary Lane's idea is that such deposits ought to be developed under the leasing system, as in the case of coal, the Government reserving necessary supplies.

As to oil he says: "We should, I believe, stimulate the search for oil and protect the prospector. I feel that we are not sufficiently rewarding the pioneer. A plan could readily be evolved by which anyone wishing to prospect for oil on the public lands could obtain a license from the Government exclusively to prospect a large tract of land for a period of time—perhaps two years—and in the event that oil is found in commercial quantities the Government should be paid a royalty good in advance."

"The United States will need oil for its navy as well as coal, and probably in increasing quantities as the modern oil-burning or gas burning engines are recognized. It would be economical to substitute oil for coal for many reasons: to reduce labor cost, to avoid the buildings and maintenance of colliers, and the purchase and support of coaling stations. England's adventure in this direction will presumably force other nations into like enterprise, and yet England has no oil fields on which to draw, while we have already the largest producing oil fields in the world, and others are appearing. Under these conditions it would seem of the highest expediency that the Government make such offers as will induce the proving of our lands, and of these proved lands retain sufficient to make our ships independent of the world and as fully competent as their rivals."

Secretary Lane expresses frankly his dissatisfaction with the operation of the homestead law as to the timber lands. He says the "homesteader," after getting patent to the land, promptly sells it for \$10,000 or \$20,000 to some lumber company, without making an effort to comply with the spirit of the law. Thus, the Government "loses the timber and the land and does not gain a real home maker. Such homesteaders add nothing to the wealth of the nation. The law should punish them, in fact, as frauds. There is a remedy for this condition of things, and it lies in the selling of the land and the timber separately."

Much attention is devoted in the report to consideration of the reclamation of arid lands. Discussion of the subject is replete with interest to the farmers who locate on the various projects. Secretary Lane suggests that they be given a longer time than ten years in which to pay for their lands, because "they are genuine pioneers in a new field of work, on the success of which depends greatly the success of a vast territory. Of these reclamation projects, Secretary Lane says:

"The West can use profitably and wisely \$100,000,000 in the next 10 years to the advantage of the whole country. If the Government will place upon a leasing basis these western resources with which we have been dealing, it can have an increased fund for the continuance of this work and an increased assurance of the return of its advances."

MOVING PICTURE MEN ORGANIZE

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 22.—Proprietors of moving picture theaters throughout Oregon gathered in this city today for a two days' convention, the chief purpose of which is to perfect a State organization for the protection of their mutual interests. A feature of the convention will be a banquet, to which Governor West and other notables have been invited.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 23.—In the United States Circuit Court today Judge Walter H. Sanborn heard arguments on the petition filed by William Miles and other stockholders of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, asking leave to bring a suit for restitution against present and former directors of the railroad. The petitioners allege that certain present and former directors and officials of the railroad are responsible for "kickbacks" for losses incurred by the sale to the Prince of Feeder lines which they had promoted. It is further charged that the deals mentioned resulted in throwing the big railroad system into bankruptcy.